

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, and 48 and amend claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 33, 41, and 49 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiving station receiving the first signal, comprising the steps of mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;
mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and
transmitting the first signal to the receiving station[.];
wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is transmitted at a different rate than the first program guide information.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 4, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
receiving the first signal; and
storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and
retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising the steps of:

receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:

a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information;

a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information;

wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel;

and

presenting the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber[.];

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is received at a different rate than the first program guide information.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 12, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 9, further comprising the steps of:
storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and
retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station receiving the first signal, comprising:

a program guide subsystem for mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal, and mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

a transmitter for transmitting the first signal to the receiver station[.];

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

18. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is transmitted at a different rate than the first program guide information.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

21. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

22. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 17, further comprising:
a tuner for receiving the first signal; and
a memory for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the program guide subsystem further comprises:

a module for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide, and for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

24. (CANCELED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising the steps:

- a tuner for receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:
 - a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information;
 - a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information;
 - wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel;
- and

- a presentation device for providing the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber[[]] ;

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

26. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

27. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is received at a different rate than the first program guide information.

28. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

29. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

30. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 25, further comprising:
a memory for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

31. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 30, further comprising:
a module for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide and for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

32. (CANCELED)

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station receiving the first signal, comprising:

means for mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;

means for mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

means for transmitting the first signal to the receiver station[.];

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

34. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

35. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is transmitted at a different rate than the first program guide information.

36. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

37. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 36, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

38. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 33, further comprising:
means for receiving the first signal; and
means for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

39. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising:
means for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and
means for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

40. (CANCELED)

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising:

means for receiving the first signal, wherein the first signal includes:

a first service channel having at least a portion of the first program guide information;

a second service channel having at least a portion of the second program guide information;

wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

means for presenting the first program guide information and the second program guide information to a subscriber[.];

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.

42. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the second service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in the first program guide information.

43. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the portion of the second program guide information is received at a different rate than the first program guide information.

44. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, wherein the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period.

45. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the second time period is of different length than the first time period.

46. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising:
means for storing the first program guide information and the second program guide information for subsequent retrieval.

47. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 46, further comprising:
means for merging the first program guide information and the second program guide information to produce a merged program guide; and
means for retrieving the merged program guide in response to a subscriber request.

48. (CANCELED)

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a broadcasting system having a first service network broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information describing at least a portion of said first set of program material, and a second service network broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information describing at least a portion of said second set of program material, wherein the first broadcast signal and the second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a signal embodied in a carrier wave, the signal produced by performing the method steps of:

mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal;

mapping at least a portion of the second program guide information to a second service channel of the first broadcast signal, wherein the second service channel is logically offset from the first service channel; and

transmitting the first signal[.];

wherein the second program guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second program guide information and wherein the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between the data and a receiver station configuration value.